



**U.S. Army RDECOM Contracting Center**



# **COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ALLIANCES (CRAs) BUSINESS BRIEFING**

TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN. **WARFIGHTER FOCUSED**

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November 19, 2010



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Two **DRAFT Program Announcements (PAs)** have been issued for new **Collaborative Research Alliances (CRAs)** as follows:

- **W911NF-11-R-0001** - CRA for Materials in Extreme Dynamic Environments (**MEDE**)
- **W911NF-11-R-0002** - CRA for Multiscale Multidisciplinary Modeling of Electronic Materials (**MSME**)

Nothing said today **changes** the requirements of the DRAFT PAs; however, comments and questions are welcome!

The **FINAL PAs** are expected to be issued in **January 2011**.



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Any conflict between what is said today and what is in



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**Both DRAFT PAs contain the following items:**

- **Overview Information including Executive Summary**
- **Detailed Information about the Funding Opportunity**
- **Award Eligibility Information**
- **Application and Submission Information**
- **Agency Contacts**

***NOTE: The Due Date for proposals and Application Review Information (to include evaluation criteria) will be added in the FINAL PA. All proposals must be submitted via grants.gov.***



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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **Open House (MSME CRA) - 9 December 2010**
- **Open House (MEDE CRA) - 16 December 2010**
- **Final PAs Issued - January 2011**
- **Proposals Due - March 2011**
- **Evaluation and Negotiations - April-August 2011**
- **Final Proposals Due - August 2011**
- **Award - February 2012**





## **COLLABORATION: A COMMON THEME**

- Both the MEDE CRA and the MSME CRA will result in the award of a **Cooperative Agreement**. (10 U.S.C. 6305)
- **Under a Cooperative Agreement, there is substantial Government involvement as the Government is working jointly and collaboratively with organizations on research efforts.**
- This is **significantly different** than performing under a **procurement contract** or a **grant**.





## **COLLABORATION: A COMMON THEME**

- The Program Plan (part of the award document that delineates the effort to be performed under the Agreement) identifies how the Government will work collaboratively under the Agreement
- Terms and Conditions of the Cooperative Agreement are crafted to facilitate the exchange of research personnel
- Terms and Conditions provide for and protect the interests of both parties concerning publications, inventions and intellectual property rights





## ***HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT THAN PERFORMING UNDER A CONTRACT?***

- **Traditional Approach:** Award of a Procurement Contract (10 U.S.C. 6303)

- **Difference:** A procurement contract involves an “arms length” relationship with effort being strictly governed by the scope of work of the contract. A cooperative agreement allows for Government and Non-Government researchers to work closely together (“rub shoulders”) in a legal mechanism. The program plan is more “fluid” than a scope of work under a contract, allowing both parties to work together toward the research goals of the Agreement in lieu of requiring strict adherence to a scope of work performed independently by a contractor.





## ***HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT THAN PERFORMING UNDER A GRANT?***

- **Traditional Approach:** Award of a Grant (10 U.S.C. 6304)
- **Difference:** Under a grant, the grantee performs the research program independently and there can be no substantial Government involvement. Again, a cooperative agreement allows for Government and Non-Government researchers to work closely together (“rub shoulders”) in a legal mechanism.







## PERFORMANCE BY “COVERED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS”

- Both PAs require “**covered educational institutions**” (10 U.S.C 2362) receive **5-10%** of the annual funding under the Cooperative Agreement
- “Covered educational institutions” include Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions (HBCU/MSIs)
- Both PAs provide offerors the **flexibility** to identify and include a covered educational institution **in their proposal** or **work collaboratively with the Government after award** to identify and include a covered educational institution





## **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AWARD MEDE CRA (W911NF-11-R-0001)**

- Award will be made to a **Consortium of Institutions**
- The Consortium will be **self-formed** and may include academic, industrial or non-profit organizations
- Must be lead by an **academic institution; called the "Lead Research Organization"**
- **"Covered educations institutions"** must receive **5-10%** of the annual funding
- **10%** of the annual funding is to be devoted to **novel and innovative research projects** (which are expected to come from subawardees)





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## **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AWARD MEDE CRA (W911NF-11-R-0001)**

- All Members of the Consortium are **signatories** to the Agreement
- All Members of the Consortium are **Joint and Severably liable** for performance under the agreement
- All Members of the Consortium **participate** and “vote” on the **Management** of the Consortium
- All Members are bound by **Articles of Collaboration (AOC)** that govern how Members work together



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## **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AWARD MEDE CRA (W911NF-11-R-0001)**

- A **Sample AOC** is provided on the CRE MEDE website for offerors to use in preparing their proposals
- The AOC must cover the **sharing of intellectual property** with Members of the Consortium
- The AOC must describe how Members are **added and removed** from the Consortium
- The Government will **evaluate** the proposed AOC via a Management evaluations factor.
- The AOC will be incorporated as an **attachment** to the Cooperative Agreement with the Government.



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## **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AWARD MSME CRA (W911NF-11-R-0002)**

- Award will be made to a **single Recipient Institution**
- Must be an **academic institution**
- May include the participation of **two key subawardees**
- **“Covered educations institutions”** must receive **5-10%** of the annual funding
- **5%** of the annual funding is to be devoted to **novel and innovative research projects** (which are expected to come from subawardees)





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**The Websites for both PAs are [www.arl.army.mil/CRAMEDE](http://www.arl.army.mil/CRAMEDE) and [www.arl.army.mil/CRAMSME](http://www.arl.army.mil/CRAMSME). The Websites contain important information as follows:**

- **Copies of DRAFT PAs and Other Documents (e.g. Model Cooperative Agreement and Articles of Collaboration)**
- **Presentations from the Opportunity Conference**
- **Information/Presentations from both Open Houses**
- **Final PAs**
- **Questions and Answers**
- **Interested Vendor Listing**

***PLEASE BOOKMARK AND CHECK THESE WEBSITES  
REGULARLY FOR UPDATES!***



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